GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:183
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
RISKS TO CROPS
V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the potent risks in new genetically engineered crop varieties;

(b) if so, whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research or other Agricultural Universities are undertaking any research on the efforts of bio-technological risks in new varieties of crop;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India is the nodal Department for research on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). The risk assessment of GMOs including genetically engineered crops is primarily done by the Department of Biotechnology. However, studies on effect of Bt Cotton are being done on fish at Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai; on buffalows at National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal and Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar.

The Research on transformation of Bt toxin genes is being carried out at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi on tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, brinjal and paddy; at Central Tobacco Research Institute , Rajahmundry on Bt tobacco; at Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla on Bt potato, Central Institute for Cotton Research , Nagpur and University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwar on cotton. At Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore experiments are being conducted to produce rabies antigen in watermelon under the supervision of Institute Biosafety Committees.

(d) Does not arise Sir.